

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 STR-04 FTC-01
/101 W

-----023517 071110Z /13

R 071002Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8706
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4406

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MMOL
SUBJECT: ARAB INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION (AIO); KUWAIT
JOINING?

REF: (A) INR REPORT NO. 797, MAY 13, 1977, (B) CAIRO
12639.

1. 1. KUWAITI PRESS (AL QABAS, AUGUST 4) CARRIES REPORT BY
EGYPTIAN PUBLICATION AKHER SA'AT TO THE EFFECT THAT KUWAIT
WILL SOON JOIN THE AIO, "AFTER PAYING ITS SHARE OF \$400
MILLION," AND WILL TAKE A SEAT ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
NOW INCLUDING EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA, UAE AND QATAR.

2. COMMENT: REF B ALSO MENTIONS THE POSSIBILITY OF KUWAITI
PARTICIPATION IN AIO. KUWAIT HAS PLAYED THE ROLE OF
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INTERESTED OBSERVER OF THE AIO FOR SOME TIME. THERE
ARE SEVERAL REASONS WHY KUWAIT MIGHT JOIN:
A. FOR GENERAL FOREIGN POLICY PURPOSES, KUWAIT HAS
ALWAYS SOUGHT TO MAINTAIN A HIGHLY VARIED GROUP OF
MILITARY SUPPLIERS. ADDING EGYPT WOULD FURTHER BROADEN
THE GROUP.
B. THE KUWAITI MILITARY IS SOMEWHAT INTERESTED IN
ACQUIRING THE FRENCH CROTALE MISSILE, WHICH WE HAVE
HEARD MAY BE MANUFACTURED AT AN AIO SITE IN EGYPT.
C. KUWAIT PROBABLY SEES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF

MILITARY INDUSTRIES IN EGYPT AS BENEFITING BOTH THE
EGYPTIAN ECONOMY AND ARAB UNITY IN THE LONG RUN.
SWEANY

CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KUWAIT04406
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708117/baaaaeuwu.tel
Line Count: 61
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 0deb5751-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) INR REPORT NO. 797, MAY 13, 1977, (B) CAIRO 12639.
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1446629
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARAB INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION (AIO): KUWAIT JOINING?
TAGS: MMOL
To: STATE INFO ABU DHABI MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0deb5751-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009